

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 and 12-17, 19-26, 28, and 29 are presently active in this case. The present Amendment amends Claims 15, 19, 23-26, 28, and 29; and cancels Claim 18 and 27.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 15-23, 25, 26, 28, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rauch (U.S. Patent No. 4,635,030); Claims 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Rauch patent in view of Lancki (U.S. Patent No. 6,097,998) and other references; Claim 27 was objected to but noted as allowable if rewritten in independent form; and Claims 1-10 and 12-14 were allowed. Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in the claims.

In response to the objection to Claim 27, Claim 15 is amended to incorporate the features of allowable Claim 27 and intervening Claim 18. Claims 18 and 27 are thus canceled without prejudice and Claims 19, 23-26, 28, and 29 are amended to modify the dependencies accordingly. Allowable Claim 27 now being in independent form as amended Claim 15, the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and/or 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of Claims 15-29 are moot and Claims 15-17, 19-26, 28, and 29 are allowable.

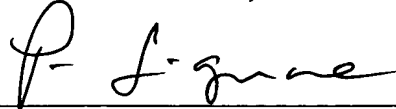
Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-10, 12-17, 19-26, 28, and 29 is earnestly solicited.

Application No. 10/718,588  
Reply to Office Action of April 26, 2005

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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